

Field Trip No. 3

Durrandandi, via Lobar, return  
via Mungindi

4/10/1937 — 21/10/1937

K. H. L. Key



Between Loggins & Marsden, between  
them and Barnedown, there were a few  
patches of fairly heavy self-sowing  
dark grey soil. From Barnedown to  
Wyalong the soil at first became  
somewhat heavier, with *Casuarina*  
prominent, was *pinus* (photo 2  
not used). Then, within a few miles of  
Wyalong, matter was *unconformable*.  
No lappets at all were found at the end  
of photo 3. There was to certain an amount  
of *shale* pasture.

Site <sup>89</sup> 26. 6 miles W of Loggins on  
the Lalgazian road. Typical mallee, with  
some sort of bush c. 6 ft. like our bush,  
myrtle. Masses of dead fallen branches,  
practically no grass. Soil sample. Photo 4

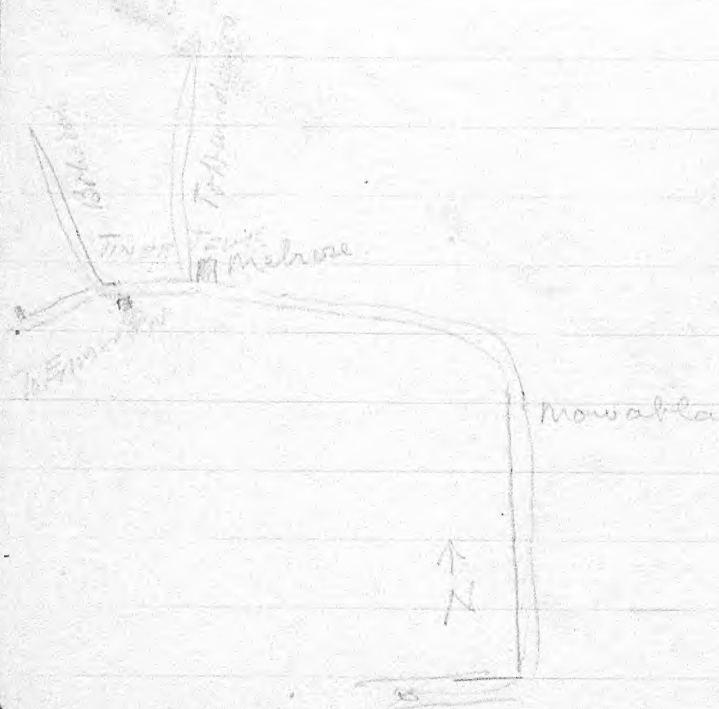
O'Neill took me to Marsden to see  
hatchings there. The mallee was left behind  
in a few miles. All wheat country, except  
first half. Then heavy grey-brown country,  
better open, with *belah*, *box* & *rosewood* &  
*gums*. Good mixed pasture. Towards

*Moraba cultrata cultrata* (R)

(Site 5)

Marsden melon-holes (gilgai) in Hesperia  
 Congregating in melon-holes adjacent to  
 harder caps with bare spaces. Photo.  
 5-7 (General view, close up of part of gilgai,  
 & general view of gilgai). Grass samples.  
 O'Neill said "Chaco-mud" is later first.  
 [Harrison & Co.] Lake Cowas. Very like Bogan  
 country. Spade of *Gerrhonotus* country.  
*Moraba*, *Pedicularis* adults (very few), advanced  
 jungle hoppers. A little further on in hill country  
 places we came to ~~lighter~~ lighter country,  
 but open, with halah & horse on the  
 margins — right on the edge of the typical  
 bland country. Good grass on bare  
 plenty open spaces, Grass sample.  
*Chloris truncata*  
 Soil samples. (Site 6) Photo 8.

Site 7. Ca. 6-7 miles NW of Condastotin.  
 Typical mallee with spinifex. Sample of  
*Triodia irritans* spinifex, photos 9 & 10. 3 species Acridids  
 hiding in spinifex; one rose (♂) one common  
 (myzoph). Very hard to get. Both red legs.  
*Pycnostictus variatus*, *Pygostola* sp., *Austroicetes*  
 Site 8. Red stream, 2 miles NW of Condastotin. Red quartz  
 cruciata 4 ins. NW of Condastotin.  
 per stone 2 cruciata 75.





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Site 9. *Qualetta maculata*, *Pycnostictus seriatus*  
 further on - more trees. *A. f.* *Oedaleus nymphus*  
*Pycnostictus* (?) *Qualetta* (nymph).

95

Site 10. Moderate open prairie a few miles  
 further on (ca. 6-8 from Cond.). Ringed box,  
 mallee spine. Hard rd slightly gravelly  
*Aristida ramosa*  
 soil. 2 grasses & 2 dicots dominant  
 (samples) & photo 11. *Oedaleus nymphus*  
 (just hatched) other nymphs, "Crabapple",  
*A. junco* nymphs & adults, ~~from~~ *Euphorbia*  
 nymph.

Towards Melbourne *E. populeifolia* common

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Site 11. Rocky hill with *Pycnostictus seriatus*, *Agelota* sp.  
 Thus beyond Melbourne. *Oedaleus nymphus*

97

Site 12. Cms. E of Eveneran station  
*Chortoicetes terminifera*, *Austroicetes cruciata*  
 Since before Melbourne the dominant  
 grass to the top has been no. 9.

Red country all the way. box, some pine,  
 some mallee in patches. A very long  
 grassy in a wet patch at site 12. also  
 no 9, other grasses. Bare spaces.

Photo 12. 3 grass samples. *Aristida*  
*Qualetta nymphus*. A *junco* (from *Pteris*)  
*Pteris*

The country continues much the same until about 10-15 mi. E of Bilguinica, where natural open grass spreads appear, extend as far west. No. 9 absolutely dominant. <sup>= yarran</sup> *Thymus* species still present, but as *Thymus* (*Thymus* *mulga*) is now dominant. At the same time we have suddenly entered the "grey & brown" soil zone. Soil less red & looser. (sandy)

Apparently, correlated with this change *Pinguicula* became really numerous in places (other than "No. 9").

<sup>99</sup> Site 13. Just beyond Bilguinica. Plain mostly treeless, No. 9, <sup>yarran</sup> *mulga* in distance, red-brown soil. Photo 1 of roll 3.

<sup>99</sup> Site 14. *Umicoguttulosa*, *Anastroicetes cruciata*. Less miles further. Sudden transition to very stony, purplish-brown bare ground with few patches surface soil bearing very little No. 9. <sup>new</sup> *Thymus* *mulga* very slight comb. other grass. *Pinguicula* *lanceolata* (1) & new forms (2) Photos 3 & 5. Stone samples a-c. *Qualiteta* was found among [a: haematitic shale; b: haematitic shale; c: haematitic siltstone. Identification by Dabovitz, Bur. Min. Res.]

Proceeding north, after striking the Wilson-Coker road, the country

heavier red again, with pine & those a patch  
of belah, mulga, mulga etc. *Oedotus*  
nymphs at Sandy Creek.

<sup>100</sup> Site 15. <sup>Scrub no. 48, *Azylota* sp.</sup> Patch of mulga & open forest after  
no. 11 of Sandy Cr. *Azylota* prob. not same  
as specimen *Azylota* near Cond.

Very few *A. fengi* at Priory.

From Priory to Cobac the soil was  
mostly red with dark purple gravel. Grass  
was mostly absent, <sup>grass</sup> mulga & other small  
trees, also bushes less than 6 ft. being  
common. Grass was very scarce, near  
no. 9. but there was a little low scrub-  
bush. Mostly bare gravelly spaces. Saltbush  
bare spaces, lack of grass & dominance of  
mulga progressively increased to Cobac.

<sup>101</sup> Site 16. <sup>*Pycnostictus seriatus*</sup> 30 m. S of Cobac. Purple gravel  
ridge (sample). Very few hoppers. *A. fengi*  
(very few).

<sup>102</sup> Site 17. Cobac. *Onalitta maculata*, *Pycnostictus seriatus*,  
Red brown soil, subsoil exposed  
*Austroicetes arida*, *Tapesta* sp.  
quite ca. half the area. Small shrubs ca. 18 cm.  
high & various small acacia & other on all  
trees. <sup>patches of</sup> sparse pasture (not no. 9) Post, some pale  
or photos 4-6.



Stock Ind. took me to a property  
 10 ms. E. of Lehar where there was a  
 pasture. (Site <sup>103</sup> 8) *Pereskia fasciculata*, *Austroicetes*  
*cruciata*, *Chotoicetes tenuifera*  
 sparsely scattered. Large interesting  
 species *Acacia homalophylla* (no tag, very  
 few; yarran, the tree referred to as  
 mulga is single in lot 150 miles;  
 Currant-bush; iron-wood, few; wild  
 orange, few; blue-bush; sandalwood;  
 pin-bush; turpentine. *Dedaenia* & *Myrtillo*  
 All *Dedaenia* nymphs referred to as  
 few have been few in no. & recently  
 hatched. Photos 7-9 are respectively  
 of mulga, pin-bush & yarran. *Scijera parviflora*  
 Photomicro specimens including mulga.  
 Site <sup>104</sup> 19. 25 ms. N of Lehar. Red soil, somewhat  
 crumbly (presumably "brown" of Prescott). Small  
 grass like shrubs *E. papulifera*. Various  
 acacias. Photo 10 - ~~the~~ open side of  
 road - much bare ground, a grass like wire  
 grass, acacias. Photo 11 - right hand of  
 road - grass & kangaroo grass. So far K grass  
 has been rare, associated with grass.

Lacking any saltbush. Yucca, some times quite large, numerous along this section. Practically no grasshoppers at this site. Very dry. A few nymphs, of which the largest seen collected. Heteroptera caught on Cal somewhere in this section.

Site 20. <sup>105</sup> 38 m. N of Cal. <sup>beginning Nov. 16(?)</sup> *Azylota* sp. Small grass, & narrow acacias. Very well grazed with dense tufted grass. *beginning* Comp. and a species between. *Aristida ramosa* ↓  
*Amphipogon strictus* rounded tufted sp. Damp places but all dead. A few small patches of *Amphipogon* grass. Several spp. *Pennisetum*, but Comp. rare. Several *Aristida*, definitely associated with the grass. One prob. *Chenopodium*. Definitely along grass association. Photo 12 (showing *Aristida* grass in down, grass.) *Euphorbia* nymphs. Photo 1 of roll 3 showing general appearance of country at site 20.

Site 21. <sup>106</sup> Top of gravelly ridge at 55 m. Open. *interioris* *Omalotima maculata*, *Azylota* sp., *Anacrotis*. Small grass, acacias, etc. Patches of grass like *Amphipogon*, mostly open. Photo 2, from ca. 62 m. the soil becomes much

*Austroicetes inferioris**Aristida arenaria*  
↓

*Austroicetes interioris*

*Diszocarpus paradoxus*

O

E

*Austroicetes pusilla*

*Neoraba cultata cultata (n) (R)*

*Zabrata ~~crista~~ sp. n.*

*Rossia echinopsila*

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*Sclerolaena divaricata*



*Chloris truncata* *Dichanthium sericeum*



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*Moraba culta culta (R)*

*Mystroicetes cruciata*

*A. interioris*

112

*Phaneroglossa*

*Phaneroglossa*



*Chortoietes tenuifera**Dichanthium sericeum*

14/10

Am. ...

Am. ...

Am. ...

Am. ...

Am. ...

Am. ...

Am. ...

Am. ...

Am. ...

Am. ...

Arctic

136

10

4

3

33

11.

1. 10. 11.

11.

1. 10. 11.





S. 1

H. 1

140

119

50

occurs for some miles, but they have a  
Mungindi - more bushy heavy plain.

Mr. Spring at Naandoo station  
said that the so-called clay-pan in the  
neighbourhood could be recognized by  
their association of white-wood,  
leopard-wood & lime-bush.

Mungindi - more. Higher land  
hauling in various directions.

15 mi N of Mungindi :- some  
swampy ground & grass all along route.  
Perchthra.

In general, the country from  
Mungindi to Callacreeby by this route  
was very heavy. Towards Mungindi &  
Bunarka, which country occurred in  
addition to Calabash white further  
south east upabell grass plains &  
Calabash. The red ridge along which  
the Mungindi - Call. road partly runs  
is apparently quite exceptional to the  
surrounding country. Similarly from  
Call. to Walgett the road runs

along a <sup>gravelly</sup> red bridge for perhaps some  
 (box. <sup>(budda)</sup> sand wood), but the surrounding  
 country is black. Towards Walgett,  
 especially south of Walgett, the heavy  
 soil is very distinctly not black, but  
 quite a pale grey-brown, and similar  
 to much in the Bourke-Brewarrina  
 district. The soil at Dorian bandi by  
 contrast would be black. This soil  
 continues in plain country with belts  
 of coolabah for half way to Coonamble.  
 There are several clay pans with  
 whitewood, a bush similar to lime-  
 bush, and sometimes even leopard-  
 wood. These are frequently reddish.

From half-way onwards there is  
 a great deal of clay-pan & semi-clay-  
 pan country, though the coolabals  
 remain. The country is mainly lighter  
 shadier in appearance, forms more  
 definite banks when cut at the  
 roadsides, & does not crack much.  
 It resembles much of the country



north of Warren. Heavier rocks are scattered in it, especially in low-lying places, gullies, etc. ~~that is~~ The pastures were poor owing to drought, but Mitchell grass was probably less in evidence. No wheat at all along the road as far as Coonamble.

Ellis said the edges of clay-pans were preferred for laying, where the soil is firm but not so hard.

South of Coonamble the soil is at first of the clay-pan type - hard, shiftery, when wet, with a very thin <sup>silt</sup> sandy layer on top - but the dominant gum is almost all *E. poplarsifolia*. Treeless areas numerous. A few white-barked. Pasture very short & sparse, apparently mainly herbage. Half-grown Chen hoppers were numerous, also *Pteronidea* sp. (specimens & soil sample). The further south one goes the <sup>greater the</sup> more sandy the element in the soil, & the closer the trees, until the <sup>reddish</sup> sandy loam

Adelphi

To the south of the road, the soil is of the latter type. The latter is the same as the Dublin, which is a certain amount of the rich, brick-red in color. The soil is of the latter type.

Took the road from Dublin to Tormigley, which passes through the latter range. After the road is a small stream, but rather low. The soil is small, brown, pure, brown (dark) on the road, continuous to within 5 miles of Tormigley. The soil is brown, but at Tormigley, from there to Parker, it is brick-red, brown, with some quartz pebbles. The range continues at a distance of ca. 5-15 miles E of road as far as Parker. The actual distance from Tober, see earlier notes.

Between Parker & Tober, the soil gradually lightens somewhat in color.